



Local high school students  
participate in the “Storm Drain Detectives” program.

**Award Amount**  
\$70,140

**Watershed**  
Lower Mokelumne River Watershed

**County**  
San Joaquin County

**CALFED Region**  
Delta Region

**Legislative Districts**  
US Congress: 11 and 18  
State Assembly: 17 and 26  
State Senate: 5 and 14

## Purpose

This project will establish the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Education Project to expand and enhance monitoring and community outreach activities of the Lower Mokelumne River Citizen Monitoring Program.

## Project Goals

- Continuation of Citizen Monitoring work on the Mokelumne River and the City of Lodi stormwater system, staffed by high school students and the general public.
- Research and painting of two Mokelumne River Watershed murals at the Lodi Lake Park.
- Feasibility study of the Lodi Lake Park area for a larger building to house environmental studies work.

## Benefits to the CALFED Program

*The Mokelumne River is the largest eastside Delta tributary and, therefore, an important element of the CALFED Program. The Ecosystem Restoration Program has targeted this watershed for habitat improvements, and the Water Quality Program is working toward improvements in dissolved oxygen levels and sedimentation in the Mokelumne River. This education project improves coordination and collaboration among agencies, organizations, and groups in the watershed. It validates and strengthens existing monitoring protocols, which aid decision-makers in making informed choices for water management. The project also expands an existing education and outreach program and helps define the relationship between watershed processes and the goals and objectives of the CALFED Program.*

## Project Overview

Funds were awarded in 2000 to the Lodi Lake Nature Area Docent Council for start-up activities of the Lower Mokelumne River Citizen Monitoring Program (Program) and to refurbish a part of the Lodi Lake Discovery Center for office space. This project will continue and expand on the work of the Program. The Program is a collaborative effort of the City of Lodi Public Works Department, the California Regional Water Quality Resources Board, Central Valley Region, and the Lodi Lake Nature Area Docent Council. It trains local students and citizens to serve as monitoring team members and also trains local high school science teachers to serve as monitoring team leaders. The Program established protocols and began regular sampling and testing of river, lake, and storm drain waters for certain physical and chemical parameters. Students use their field experiences to augment their classroom education and to satisfy their senior project requirements. The water quality data collected by the monitoring teams are made available to educators, agencies, and the public on a web site.

This project will expand the Program to augment the capabilities and activities of the Program to:

- Continue and expand storm drain and river water monitoring activities, including recruitment, training, and deployment of four additional monitoring teams.
- Diversify and expand Lodi Lake Nature Area Docent Council activities related to water quality and stewardship education, including the creation of two watershed murals and the initiation of a feasibility study for remodeling the current Lodi Lake Discovery Center.



*Student volunteers clean the storm drain path to enhance water quality.*

## Contact Information

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